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Agenda item 121

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005**Cooperation with the city and state of New York related to
the capital master plan****Report of the Secretary-General****Summary*

In accordance with the provisions of section II, paragraph 29, of General Assembly resolution 57/292, of 20 December 2002, the Secretary-General is pleased to submit the present report as an update on the status of the negotiations with the city and state of New York on implementation of the capital master plan, initially reported on to the General Assembly in the first annual progress report (A/58/599). The present report provides information on further developments in the area of that cooperation. The city of New York has developed a plan to mitigate the effects on the community of the construction of the new building, to be known as the UNDC5 building. The city of New York has been working with the New York State legislature to develop an appropriate mitigation plan, which is expected to be introduced and enacted at the upcoming 2005 legislative session. Progress has also been achieved by the United Nations Development Cooperation regarding the design work, which would allow construction of the building to begin in late 2005, pending the resolution of all other related matters.

* The present report is issued following General Assembly decision 58/566, adopted at its eighty-third plenary meeting on 8 April 2004.



1. It will be recalled that, in accordance with the provisions of section II, paragraph 29, of General Assembly resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly the first progress report on implementation of the capital master plan (A/58/599). That report addressed, *inter alia*, the status of cooperation with the city and state of New York on the project. The present report complements that report and highlights further developments with respect to the capital master plan project, as requested by the Assembly in its decision 58/566, taken at its eighty-third plenary meeting on 8 April 2004.

Mitigation plan

2. The city of New York has developed a mitigation plan that is required to accommodate both the alienation of a portion of Robert Moses Park, in the district of Community Board 6, and the construction on that land of a new office building, of approximately 950,000-square feet, to be known as the UNDC5 building. The plan includes the rehabilitation of the remaining part of Robert Moses Park and of the adjacent courts, as well as the construction of a new esplanade park along the East River between 41st and 51st Streets. The esplanade park will have two general components: (a) an "active" part, closer to 41st Street, to mitigate for the use of Robert Moses Park; and, (b) a "passive" part, which will serve to mitigate for the new building. At present the city of New York is still in discussion with Community Board 6 and local elected officials regarding the scope of the design of the proposed esplanade park as well as other aspects of park mitigation. While some members of the community had initially opposed the land alienation, the mitigation proposals have received growing support from the community in recent months.

3. The city of New York has reviewed the issue of the timing of the required state legislation for alienation of Robert Moses Park and has determined when the legislation should be introduced so that it will most efficiently be passed by the State and supported by the community. After extensive discussions and reviews, the city of New York has concluded that it would be best and most prudent to have the legislation introduced and enacted in the upcoming 2005 legislative session. The Secretary-General will advise the General Assembly on the decision to be taken by the state of New York on the subject and on its effect on the overall timing of the project, as well as on the park mitigation timing, in the next annual progress report to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Progress of work on the proposed new building

4. The United Nations Development Corporation is in the process of finalizing a contract with the architectural firm, selected through an architectural competition, to design UNDC5. It is anticipated that the design work for the building will commence immediately upon the signing of the contract between the architectural firm and the United Nations Development Corporation. In addition, a security study of the requirements for UNDC5, commissioned by the United Nations Development Corporation, is near completion. The results of the study will be submitted to the United Nations for review in the first half of 2004. The current schedule indicates that construction of UNDC5 will start in late 2005, pending the resolution of all related matters.

5. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**